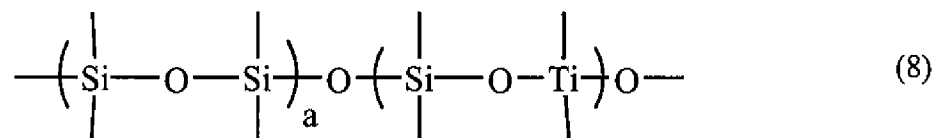


**THE CLAIMS:**

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coated powder having a crosslinked coating on a powder substrate, the coating comprising ~~siloxymetal units~~ chains of multiple siloxy metal units interconnected by oxygen atoms wherein the coated powder has no reactive functional groups.
2. (CANCELED)
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coated powder according to claim 2 wherein the siloxy metal units have the formula -Si-O-M- wherein M represents a metal having two or more valencies and the additional silicon valencies and metal valencies, if any, are satisfied by chemically inactive groups or atoms compatible with the coated powder and, optionally the siloxy metal unit includes a first oxygen atom ~~bonded~~ bonded to the silicon atom and a second oxygen atom bonded to the metal atom.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coated powder according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 3 having hydrophobic and lipophilic properties or having hydrophobic and lipophobic properties.
5. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 4 having hydrophobic and lipophilic properties and being dispersible in silicone fluids.
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coated powder according to claim 4 wherein the coating comprises a continuous, complete, coherent coating extending over substantially the entire outer surface of each powder particle, the coating being ~~tenaciously~~ covalently bonded to the powder substrate.
7. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 6 wherein the coating includes chains of polysiloxo units coupled to the substrate powder, and metallate units interconnecting polysiloxo units.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coated powder according to claim 1 wherein the coating includes the residues of a multifunctional organometallate compound, and of a multifunctional silicon compound wherein the residues are crosslinked.
9. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 8 wherein the multifunctional organometallate comprises a difunctional organotitanate compound and the multifunctional silicon compound comprises a trialkoxysilane.
10. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 4 being a cosmetic pigment or filler having an average particle size of not more than about 100 micron.
11. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 4 wherein the metal M is titanium, aluminum, tin, vanadium, zinc or zirconium.
12. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 4 wherein the metal M is titanium, and the coating comprises the residue of a chain of siloxy units, the siloxy units being terminated with, or interspersed with, organometallate residues wherein the coating includes crosslinking between the siloxy units and the organometallate residues, terminal units bonded to the powder substrate and terminal units capped with organometallate residues.
13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coated powder having a coating on a powder substrate, the coating having chains of units of the following structural formula (8):

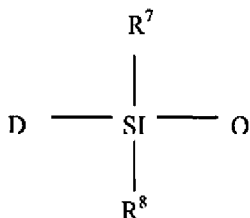


wherein a is from 1 to 1000, ~~preferably from 1 to 100~~ and the unsatisfied valencies are occupied by other units of formula (8), said other units ~~optionally~~ being crosslinking units, by powder substrate atoms or groups, or by residual unreactive groups.

14. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 13 wherein unsatisfied valencies not satisfied by other units are satisfied by hydrocarbon groups, fluorohydrocarbon groups, fatty acid ester groups or mixtures of the foregoing groups.

15. (ORIGINAL) A lipid- and silicone-dispersible coated cosmetic powder comprising cosmetic powder particles and a hydrophobic coating on the cosmetic powder particles, the hydrophobic coating conferring lipid and silicone dispersibility on the cosmetic powder particles and comprising:

- a) cosmetically stable hydrophobic organometallate units of formula (R6)<sub>g</sub>M1-O- wherein:  
 M1 is a metal capable of forming ~~cosmetically stable~~ organometallate compounds of the structure shown, including any of the metals M;  
~~a equals g equals~~ the valence state of metal M1 minus 1 or minus 2, wherein, in the case of the latter alternative, the available valence of metal M1 is covalently bonded to another M1 atom or to a coating material oxygen atom;  
 R6 is a hydrophobic organic moiety including a ~~cosmetically stable~~ covalent bond to metal M or, when a is greater than 1, to an oxygen atom with an available valence and wherein multiple R6s, if present, may be the same or different; and
- b) ~~cosmetically stable~~ siloxy units of formula ~~D-R7-R8-Si-O-~~



wherein:

D is an oxygen atom with an available valence or a hydrophobic organic moiety including a ~~cosmetically stable~~ covalent bond to the silicon atom; and

R7 and R8 may be the same or different and are each a hydrophobic organic moiety including a ~~cosmetically stable~~ covalent bond to the silicon atom; wherein the hydrophobic coating is covalently bonded to the cosmetic powder by satisfaction of available oxygen valencies in the organometallate and siloxy units.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A coated powder according to claim 15 wherein R7 and R8 include optionally saturated hydrocarbon or fluorohydrocarbon groups having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms ~~and other such groups as will be apparent from the disclosure herein.~~

17. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 15 wherein the organometallate units include units having two available oxygen valencies, at least one of the two organometallate unit available oxygen valencies being satisfied by a covalent bond to one of the siloxy units or to another organometallate unit, and wherein the hydrophobic coating includes siloxy units bonded to the powder through organometallate units.

18. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 15 wherein the siloxy units include units having two available oxygen valencies at least one of the two siloxy unit available oxygen valencies being satisfied by a covalent bond to one of the siloxy units or to another organometallate unit and wherein the hydrophobic coating includes polysiloxo units.

19. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 15 wherein both the organometallate units and the siloxy units include units having two available oxygen valencies and wherein the hydrophobic coating includes polysiloxo units bonded to the powder through organometallate units.

20. (ORIGINAL) A coated powder according to claim 15 comprising a stoichiometric proportion of organometallate units to siloxy units of from about 0.05:1 to about 10:1.

21. (WITHDRAWN) A process of providing a hybrid coating on a cosmetic powder comprising coating the powder with one coating agent comprising a functionalized silicon

compound and with another coating agent comprising an organometallate compound under conditions producing a coated powder.

22. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the powder is simultaneously mixed with the functionalized silicon compound and the organometallate.

23. (WITHDRAWN) process according to claim 21 wherein the functionalized silicon compound and the organometallate are applied to the powder sequentially.

24. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 comprising:

- a) combining:
  - i) a powder to be coated;
  - ii) a liquid dispersion medium sufficient for a slurry;
  - iii) an organometallate compound of formula (1) herein; and
  - iv) a functionalized silicon compound;

to form a slurry;

- b) thoroughly mixing the slurry;
- c) filtering the slurry; and
- d) heating the resultant paste to a temperature and for a time effective to yield a dry powder.

25. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 24 wherein the functionalized silicon compound comprises a multifunctional silane, a multifunctional polysiloxane, a multifunctional fluorinated or fluoroalkyl- silane or polysiloxane, or a mixture of the foregoing functionalized silicon compounds.

26. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein each coating agents becomes chemically covalently bonded, under the conditions of the coating process, to the surfaces of the powder particles and contributes to the provision of a durable outer layer or skin of a hybrid chemical nature enveloping each powder particle.

27. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 26 wherein the coating comprises metal atoms, silicon atoms and optionally, M-O-Si groups, as defined herein.

28. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 27 wherein at least one of the coating agents comprises a bifunctional coupling agent capable of covalently bonding with the substrate powder and with the other coating agent and wherein, optionally, the bifunctional coupling agent has two or more functional entities.

29. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the coating agents comprise a mixture of organotitanate and trialkoxy alkylsilane coating agents and the coated powder is hydrophobic and lipophilic or hydrophobic and lipophobic.

30. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the organometallate compound provides a hydrophobic residual unit in the powder coating and optionally comprises a metallate compound having at least one enduring, unreactive, hydrophobic organic group.

31. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 30, wherein the enduring organic group comprises a saturated hydrocarbon optionally containing one or more phenyl groups, the saturated hydrocarbon being attached to a metal atom by an oxygen atom and wherein the organometallate comprises at least one displaceable group or atom attached to the metal atom by an oxygen atom to provide a functional group.

32. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the organometallate compound is a compound of formula (2) as defined herein.

33. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the functionalized silicone compound comprises at least one functional entity capable of covalently bonding to a target pigment surface, either directly or through an organometallate residue, under the reaction conditions employed.

34. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 33 wherein the functional entity comprises: a lower alkoxy group covalently bonded directly to a silicon atom and having from one to four carbon atoms; a halo atom; chloro and amino group; an imino group, and/or a hydroxyl group; and ethylenically unsaturated group; an acrylic group; a methacrylic group; a vinylic group; a halogenated group; a hydroxylated group; a carboxyl or carboxylated group; a thiol or a mercaptan group; an epoxy group; an ester group; a urethane group; a urea group; an amino acid group; or a polypeptide group.

35. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the functionalized silicon compound has a structure providing a stable residue on the substrate powder and remaining stable throughout subsequent processing, optionally cosmetic formulation.

36. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 35 wherein the functionalized silicon compound has a silicon backbone structure comprising a single silicon atom, a pair of silicon atoms connected by a single covalent bond or a siloxy chain of formula  $-(\text{Si-O})_r$  wherein  $r$  is an integer of from 2 to 1,000 and wherein, optionally  $r$  is from 5 to 100.

37. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 35 wherein the substituents in functionalized silicon compound, other than the functional entity or groups, lack chemical reactivity in the coating process and form stable entities in the powder coating, the nonfunctional substituents optionally being selected from the group consisting of saturated hydrocarbon groups, saturated fluorohydrocarbon groups, alkyl groups, fluoroalkyl groups, each of the foregoing groups having from 1 to about 50 optionally from about 7 to about 25 carbon atoms per substituent.

38. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the functionalized silicon compound comprises a functionalized silicon compound according to formula (3), to formula (4), to formula (5) or to formula (6), each formula being as defined herein.

39. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 wherein the functionalized silicon compound comprises a functionalized fluorinated compound or fluorosilane compound according to formula (7) as defined herein.
40. (WITHDRAWN) A process according to claim 21 comprising conducting the process under conditions causing reaction of both the functionalized silicon compound and the organometallate and causing reaction of one or both of the functionalized silicon compound and the organometallate with the cosmetic powder.
41. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A particulate pigment treated in a one-step process with a reactive titanium species and a reactive silicon species under conditions causing reaction of both the titanium and the silicon species with each other and covalent bonding of the residue or residues of both the titanium species and the silicon species to the pigment surface, providing a coated pigment having hydrophobic properties and lipophilic or hydrophobic and lipophobic properties.
42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A cosmetic powder ~~coated by the process according to claim 21~~ coated by a one-step process of providing a hybrid coating on cosmetic powder comprising coating the powder with one coating agent comprising a functionalized silicon compound and with another coating agent comprising an organometallate compound under conditions producing a coated powders.
43. (WITHDRAWN) A cosmetic product comprising a dispersion of one or more coated powders according to claim 42.
44. (WITHDRAWN) A cosmetic product comprising a coated powder according to claim 1.
45. (WITHDRAWN) A cosmetic product according to claim 44 comprising a liquid or powder makeup, a lipstick, a nail enamel, an eye shadow or a mascara.



46. (WITHDRAWN) A cosmetic product comprising a coated powder according to claim 15.
47. (WITHDRAWN) A cosmetic product comprising a dispersion of an aqueous phase in an oil or in a silicone phase or a dispersion of an oil or silicone phase in an aqueous phase wherein each phase of the dispersion comprises cosmetic powder particles coated to enhance dispersibility in the disperse medium, a common coating material being used to coat the cosmetic powder particles in both phases of the dispersion.
48. (NEW) A coated powder according to claim 13 wherein a is from 1 to 100.